

GRAND-JURORS

OF THE

City of Bristol,

THEIR

ADDRESS

To the

General Sessions of the Peace,

There Assembled:

WHEREIN

Are shewed their Reasons for the putting the Laws in due Execution against the Phanaticks and Papists.

And likewise shewing

The Fears and Jealousies that they are daily in, if the same be neglected.

Humbly offered to Consideration!

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Printed with Allowance, 1675.

GRAND - JURY

City of Boston

ADJUDGES

Commissioners of the Court  
of the City of Boston

For the purpose of  
the City of Boston

For the purpose of  
the City of Boston

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the City of Boston

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For the purpose of  
the City of Boston



*Civit.*  
*Bristol.* } Epiphany Sessions, 1674.

*To the Right Worships<sup>l</sup>, the Mayor and Aldermen,  
His Majesties Justices of the Peace of and for  
this City and County, in this their General-Session s  
of the Peace now assembled.*



WE the Grand-Jurors for the body of this City, being moved with a due sense of our Duties towards Almighty God, our zeal for the Church, and the Honour and Interest of the true Reformed Religion (as being Christians) Our Loyalty and Allegiance towards our Sovereign Lord the King, and the peace and prosperity of His Majesties Kingdoms (as being His Subjects) and especially of this City, whereof we are some of his Natives, all Citizens, Burgesies, and Inhabitants; And considering the sacred and solemn Obligation, not only of the Oath by us taken when we entered upon this Service; together with the charge and directions given us by this Court, but also of our Oaths of Burgesies, Do humbly crave leave, as hath been usual, to present and recommend to this Court, and to every of your Worships in particular, our sad apprehensions of the present State of this City, so far as His Majesties Peace, relating to the Government, therein, both Ecclesiastical and Civil, is concerned. Hoping your Lordships will not think it improper for us, or besides our present Duty, to give you an account of the true reasons and occasions of those great Divisions, Disturbances, Tumults, Routs, Riots, and Breaches of the Kings Peace which have been lately amongst us; and have raised just

cause of fears in all His Majesties Loyal and Interested Subjects within this City, That if these disorders be not prevented, and the Offenders therein punished by your Worships speedy care and activity in putting the Laws in Execution, they will end in the final ruine and desolation of this City, and probably in a new Rebellion, (which God forbid) For we see by experience, that the impunity of Offenders, and connivance at their evil practices, serves only to encourage them in the disobedience of good and wholesome Laws.

The Persons of so many of the Offenders, and the matter of their several Crimes and Offences (as we have had knowledge thereof) are set forth in the particular Indictments and Presentments against them hereto annexed, which if informal, or defective, for want of being in Latin, by reason of false Latin or otherwise; we humbly desire such defect or want of Form, may be supplied by order of this Court.

The greatest number of our Indictments, and Presentments, are against Schismatical, Seditious, and Disloyal Seducers and Sectaries, who are the very Pests and Fire-brands of our City, and the principal (if not only) disturbers and breakers of the Peace therein. The heads of these Seducers are divers Strangers, who, pretending themselves to be Ministers of Jesus Christ (but in truth were never in Holy Orders, as we believe) are lately come to settle in this City, and have made it their business to impose Doctrines of Disobedience on the weak understandings of the ignorant and credulous Multitude, to Form the People into several Parties and Factions; to Seduce them from their due Allegiance to His Majesty, and to withdraw them from the Churches, and the publick Worship and Service of God by Law Established (which these Impostors call *Antichristian*) unto unlawful Assemblies and Conventicles, set up by themselves (which they call Churches) and to unite them into several Confederacies, to separate from the Church, and forsake their lawful Pastors and Ministers (who are by them called Dogs) and to substract from them their due mainrenance, and apply it to these Seducers (who, at their Conventicles, stile these kind of practices, Holy Combinations) And at these unlawful Assemblies and Conventicles, these Seducers have taken on themselves, of their own Authority, to Pray and Preach as they list, most commonly on Lords-Days, at times of Divine Service, and at other times, whereby they have so encreased the number of Disloyal, Antimonarchical & Seditious Sectaries amongst us; and have so tamper'd with too many others of the ignorant & ill-principled Multitude, & those of the younger sort, and have by their Doctrin & Evil Examples,

Examples, so inveigled them into Disobedience, and contempt of the Laws and Constitutions of this Kingdom, both Ecclesiastical and Civil; and the Government and Magistrates of this City, that unless your Worshipps shall effectually exert your Authority for the restraining and reforming of these, and other such like their licentious proceedings, it may justly be feared, by the sad experience of the late troublefom times, that (if it lye in these mens power) not only the Peace and Safety of this City, but also a total subversion of the present Establishments, both in Church and State, will inevitably ensue: Which is the more evident, by their shutting the Doors of a Conventicle in the Castle, against several Justices of the Peace, who went thither in Person, with the Lord Bishop, to disperse it, and denying them entrance, till they had called Constables to break the Doors. By their raising Tumults and Riots in the principal parts of the City on every light occasion. By their pursuing with Staves, and assaulting by throwing Stones at divers of those, who are bound in Duty, or are commanded to go to their Conventicles, in order to their Suppression, or the Conviction of such as they find there, with such great numbers, that many sober and loyal People are in great Terror and Dread of sudden insurrections. To so great a height of Insolency are these Seducers and Seditaries now grown, as not only to frequent Conventicles, but also to challenge of the Magistrates Tolleration and Allowance for Congregating them without controll, when, where, and as often as they please, whereunto they draw great numbers of People, designing thereby, to encrease and strengthen their party, and to appear the more formidable. Insomuch, that within this City, to be reputed Loyal, begins now to be accounted matter of scandal and reproach; and schism, sedition, and faction, hath the boldness to out-face Authority.

And we cannot but take notice, That some men, who were very active against His late Majesty ( of glorious memory ) in our late Civil Wars; and others, who owe their Lives and Estates to His now Majesties Clemency and Acts of Indempnity, are now the chief Countenancers and Supporters of these schismatical Preachers in their seditious practices; and are so far from being obliged to Subjection and Obedience to the Laws, by His Majesties Grace and Goodness, that they are thereby encouraged to be the more Disobedient and Disloyal, and to seduce others to be so also. So that this City, which was formerly famous for true Religion and Loyalty, and for unity within it self, and natural love and amity, is now rent and torn with Schism and Faction: And unless there be effectual care taken by your Worshipps, for the exterminating hence these kind of Impostors

for and Seducers, and for suppressing of their Conventicles, by putting the Laws to that purpose in due Execution, Our City will shortly become a Sanctuary for Disloyal and Turbulent Spirits, and contemnners and breakers of all Laws and civil Sanctions, Our Religion and Government will be prostituted to the Humors and Lusts of unreasonable men, to be obeyed or disobeyed at their Wills and Pleasures, and the Authority of our Magistrates trampled under the Feet of such as despise Dominion, and speak Evil of Dignities, which must needs introduce remediless disorder and confusion; and may at last, for ought we know, mould the Vulgar into a willingness to embrace Popery.

But we are heartily glad to see the ready and active concurrence of your Worship, with the Right Reverend Father in God the Lord Bishop, in the preventing of those growing mischiefs, and humbly entreat both your Worship and his Lordship, to persist unanimously in so necessary a work. And we have reason to rejoyce and bless God, for the great care and vigilance of so good and faithful a Shepherd, as his Lordship is, over this part of his Flock, and for his indefatigable care and endeavours to secure it from being invaded and devoured, hoping that all the hard censures he hath, or shall meet with, from any Seducers Sectaries, or Disloyal Persons, or their Favourers, will not at all discourage him in the prosecution of so honourable and worthy an undertaking.

And we do hereby engage, in the name of our selves, and all others the Loyal Citizens, Burgeesses, and Inhabitants of this City, that we are, and shall be ready, to sacrifice our Lives and Fortunes with you in defence of His Majesties Person, Crown, and Dignity, and the Established Laws.

And Lastly, We thank your Worship's care for the preservation of the Liberties and Privileges of this City, in not admitting any to be freed, without their first taking the Oath of a Burgeess, which care we humbly desire may be continued.

And we do here humbly present to the Right Worshipful Sir *John Knight*, now present in Court, as being one of our Representatives in Parliament, as well as one of His Majesties Justices of the Peace for this City and County, these our common grievances and complaints to be by him communicated to the Right Worshipful Sir *Humbrey Hooke Knight*, the other of our Representatives, and the Collonel of the *Militia and Train'd Bands* for this City; and do make it our unanimous

our request unto them both, to endeavour the redressing the same,  
and to secure the Peace of this City, by all the ways and means they  
can, according to their best prudence and discretion, against the grow-  
wing evils and dangers, arising from the practices of such as are Dis-  
loyal, Obstinate, and Seditious, That to true Peace, Unity, and  
Charity, may be restored and re-established amongst us. To which  
end, we all heartily pray,

## God Save the King.

*Richard Daw.  
John Napper.  
Richard Wellichapp.  
Richard Clifford.  
John Estwick,  
John Whiting.  
William Bush.  
Samuel Rogers.  
John Minor.  
Richard Smith.*

*Walter Gunter.  
John Warren.  
Thomas Davidge.  
Walter Steward.  
Thomas Greene.  
Ambrose Hancock.  
Edm. Arundell.  
Robert Thorne.  
George Hart.*

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